

Executive Officer's Summary Report
9:00 a.m., April 23, 2009
River Lodge Conference Center
Chinook Room
1800 Riverwalk Drive
Fortuna, California

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: Public Hearing On Order R1-2009-0028 To Consider Renewal of the Categorical Waiver For Discharges Related To Timber Harvest Activities On Federal Lands Managed By The United States Department Of Agriculture, Forest Service In The North Coast Region (Federal Timber Waiver) until a revised Federal Timber Waiver is adopted by the Regional Water Board. (Stormer Feiler)

Discussion

The proposed Order extends the existing waiver of waste discharge requirements for timber harvest activities on federal lands with no changes recommended, until a revised waiver can be considered and adopted.

The current waiver of waste discharge requirements, Order No, R1-2004-0015, *Categorical Waiver For Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities On Federal Lands Managed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service in the North Coast Region* (Federal Timber Waiver) expired on March 24, 2009. A revised Federal Timber Waiver is in development and is anticipated that it will be considered for adoption by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board as soon as June 2009.

The Federal Timber Waiver is the primary regulatory tool used by the US Forest Service for timber harvesting activities within the North Coast Region. Federal lands, representing approximately 55% of the Region, occupy significant portions of the headwaters of these major rivers: The Klamath, Trinity, Salmon, Scott, Shasta, Rogue, Smith, North Fork Eel, Middle Fork Eel, Main-stem Eel, Mad, and the Van Duzen.

It is essential that the Federal Timber Waiver be renewed and remain in effect until a revised Federal Timber Waiver can be considered. Without a Waiver, the Forest Service could not enroll any new projects, potentially causing significant delays in planned timber activities on Federal lands. Projects already waived under the existing Waiver will remain in force and effect and will not be affected by the expiration of the waiver. Timber operations already waived under the existing waiver can continue without interruption, provided they comply with the conditions and criteria of Order No. R1-2004-0015.

The extension of the existing Federal Timber Waiver ensures that timber harvest activities on federal lands comply with the existing waiver of waste discharge requirements for timber harvest activities until such a time as the revised waiver is considered and adopted.

**PRELIMINARY STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt Order No. R1-2009-0028 as proposed.